

ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING

CHAPTER 610-X-4

LICENSURE

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610-X-4-.01 Definitions

(1) Application(s): form(s) and process(es) for applicants seeking licensure by examination, endorsement, reinstatement, or renewal.

(a) Incomplete: missing requirements.

(b) Complete: meets requirements.

(c) Void: incomplete application not processed within one year of submission.

(2) Continuing Education Earning Period: Effective January 1, 2008, the earning period for licensed practical nurses shall be the same as the license period. Effective January 1, 2009, the earning period for registered nurses shall be the same as the license period.

(3) Lapsed License: failure of licensee to renew; does not require examination for reinstatement.

(4) Emergency: For purposes of this chapter, a declaration by the Governor of Alabama that an emergency impacting the public health, safety and welfare exists in Alabama.

(5) Endorsement: the process of application for and method of licensure for a registered or licensed practical/vocational nurse originally licensed as a nurse in a jurisdiction other than Alabama.

(6) Supervision, Direct: licensed registered nurse physically present in facility and readily accessible to designate or prescribe a course of action or to give procedural guidance, direction, and periodic evaluation.

(7) Verification: the process of attesting to original or current licensure in Alabama. May be electronic, written or telephonic at the discretion of the Board.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-2, 41-22-9.

History: Effective March 24, 1984. Amended May 17, 2001. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.

610-X-4-.02 Qualifications of Applicants for Licensure.

(1) The applicant for licensure shall:

(a) Be a high school graduate or the equivalent, as determined by the Board.

(b) Be of good moral character. A criminal background check may be conducted by the Board at its discretion.

(c) For registered nurse licensure, have successfully completed all requirements for graduation from an approved registered nursing program in Alabama, or an approved registered nursing program located in another

jurisdiction or territory that substantially meets the same educational criteria as Alabama programs.

(d) For practical nurse licensure, have successfully completed an approved practical nursing program in Alabama, or an approved practical nursing program located in another jurisdiction or territory that substantially meets the same educational criteria as Alabama programs.

(2) An applicant shall provide a valid social security number prior to the Board issuing a license.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: **Code of Alabama, 1975**, §§ 34-21-20, 34-21-21, 34-21-22.

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended March 24, 1984. Amended March 8, 1994. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and**

Replaced: Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.

610-X-4-.03 Licensure by Examination

(1) The Board shall determine the official examination for licensure.

(2) Each individual seeking entry into practice as a registered or licensed practical nurse in Alabama shall give official evidence of having met a passing standard on the Board-designated official licensing examination.

(3) Examination performance for each applicant shall be measured as provided by the Board-approved testing service. In the event that examination data are lost or destroyed through circumstances beyond the control of the Board, the applicant will be required to retake the examination in order to meet requirements for licensure.

(4) A Pass-Fail designation shall be recorded as the official result. An applicant who fails the licensing examination shall not be licensed and is not authorized to practice nursing in Alabama.

(5) Official results shall be released by the Board to the applicant and the program from which the applicant graduated. Results may be released electronically or by mail at the Board's discretion. The Board shall not otherwise release individual examination results without written authorization from the applicant or licensee.

(6) An applicant who fails the licensing examination in another jurisdiction or territory shall not be eligible for licensure by examination in Alabama until eligibility has been established by the original jurisdiction or territory.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: **Code of Alabama, 1975**, § 34-21-22.

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended September 15, 1988.

Amended March 8, 1994. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004.

Amended: Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.

610-X-4-.04 Application Process for Licensure by Examination.

(1) The applicant shall submit to the Board a completed application and the required fee(s).

(2) An official school transcript shall be submitted to the Board and shall indicate the date of completion of the program and/or date degree/certificate was conferred.

(3) The Board shall determine the applicant's eligibility to take the licensing examination.

(4) If the applicant for licensure by examination is issued a license during the renewal period for that license type, the license shall expire at the end of the next license period.

(5) A first-time applicant for licensure by examination may request a nonrenewable temporary permit to practice nursing.

(a) The temporary permit is valid for a period of time determined by the Board.

(b) The temporary permit allows the applicant for licensure by examination to practice and use the title Nursing Graduate-PN Program (NG-PNP) or Nursing Graduate-RN Program (NG-RNP), as appropriate subject to the following stipulations.

(i) The Nursing Graduate must function under direct supervision of a currently licensed registered nurse.

(ii) The Nursing Graduate shall not assume nor be assigned charge responsibilities.

(c) A temporary permit issued by the Board to an applicant for licensure by examination shall immediately become null and void if one of the following conditions is met.:

(i) The applicant fails the licensing examination.

(ii) The expiration date on the permit is reached.

(iii) A license is issued.

(iv) The applicant is denied licensure.

- (d) The applicant who receives a temporary permit is required to:
 - (a) Provide every employer the temporary permit for visual inspection.
 - (b) Provide to an employer validation of a current license upon receipt of the official license card.
 - (c) Inform the employer of denial of licensure.
 - (d) Immediately inform the employer of failure of the licensing examination.
 - (e) The Board shall issue notice of denial of licensure. Receipt of notice is presumed within five calendar days of mailing.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-21, 34-21-22.

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended March 8, 1994. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.

610-X-4-.05 Applicant Request for Special Accommodation(s).

- (1) An applicant for licensure by examination who is otherwise qualified shall not be deprived of the opportunity to take the examination solely by reason of disability.
- (2) Written requests for modification of the procedures for administering the examination shall be submitted to the Board with the application for licensure. The written request shall include:
 - (a) An evaluation of the disability by the applicant's licensed physician or licensed psychologist, including the DSM IV diagnosis if appropriate.
 - (b) A statement from the director of the nursing education program addressing any accommodations made during the nursing education program.
 - (c) The specific accommodation being requested.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-2(l).

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended March 8, 1994. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.

610-X-4-.06 Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools. The applicant educated in a foreign country shall:

- (1) Be required to pass the same licensure examination as applicants for licensure by examination in Alabama.
- (2) Be a graduate of a nursing education program approved by the proper authorities in the country where the program is located.
- (3) Meet the requirements for nursing program content employed as criteria for approval in Alabama at the time of the applicant's graduation.
- (4) Correct any educational deficiencies by taking additional courses, as directed by the Board.
- (5) Complete secondary school or its equivalent.
- (6) Provide certification from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS). A CGFNS certificate and full course-by-course report is required.
- (7) Submit a completed application and required fee(s).

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-21, 34-21-22.

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended January 5, 1988. Amended November 18, 1999. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and**

Replaced: Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.

610-X-4-.07 Licensure by Endorsement.

- (1) The applicant for licensure by endorsement shall:
 - (a) Have been duly licensed as a registered nurse or licensed practical/vocational nurse under the laws of another state or territory and shall meet the requirements for the licensure examination.
 - (b) Provide for official verification of licensure from original state of licensure.
 - (c) Submit official evidence of completion of a nursing education program that included theory and clinical experience appropriate to the type program. If the nursing education program did not include clinical experience, the applicant's

continuing education and work experience in nursing may be considered at the discretion of the Board.

(d) Submit evidence of completion of twenty-four contact hours of approved continuing education earned within the twenty-four months preceding application. Contact hours earned for initial licensure by endorsement may not be used toward the continuing education requirement for the next license renewal period.

(e) Submit a completed application and required fees.

(2) The first-time applicant for licensure by endorsement may request a nonrenewable temporary permit to practice nursing.

(a) If the applicant has an active license issued by another state or territory, a notarized copy of the license is acceptable initial proof of licensure to obtain a temporary permit.

(b) If the applicant was previously duly licensed by another state or a territory but at the time of application for licensure by endorsement into Alabama has a lapsed license, a temporary permit may not be issued.

(3) A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse licensed by endorsement during the continuing education earning period shall:

(a) Accrue for the first license renewal one contact hour for each calendar month remaining in the license period.

(b) Meet requirements for continuing education in accordance with other stipulations for license renewal set forth in these rules.

(4) If the applicant for licensure by endorsement is issued a license during the renewal period for that license type, the license shall expire at the end of the next license period.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, §§ 34-21-21, 34-21-22.

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended September 15, 1988.

Amended March 22, 1991. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001.

Repealed and Replaced: Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. Proposed amendment filed September 20, 2007. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007. **Amended:** Filed June 19, 2009. Effective July 24, 2009.

610-X-4-.08 Renewal of License.

(1) License Periods:

(a) The registered nurse license shall be valid for two years beginning January 1 of each odd-numbered year and expiring December 31 of each even-numbered year.

(b) The practical nurse license shall be valid for two years beginning January 1 of each even-numbered year and expiring December 31 of each odd-numbered year.

(2) Continuing Education Earning Period: Two-year period of time during which contact hours shall be accrued. The license renewal year for licensed practical nurses occurs every odd year. The license renewal year for registered nurses occurs every even year. Effective January 1, 2008, the earning period for licensed practical nurses shall be the same as the license period. Any continuing education earned between October 1, 2007-December 31, 2007 may be used to meet the requirements of the 2009 LPN renewal. Effective January 1, 2009, the earning period for registered nurses shall be the same as the license period. Any continuing education earned between October 1, 2006-December 31, 2008 may be used to meet the requirements of 2008 RN renewal.

(3) Renewal of License

(a) The renewal period shall be from September 1 to November 30 of the year the license expires.

(b) Any licensed nurse who renews between December 1-December 31 for the next license period shall pay a late renewal fee.

(c) Renewal notices may be mailed or transmitted electronically.

(d) To be eligible for renewal, the applicant shall:

(1) Hold a valid, active Alabama license.

(2) Submit a completed and signed renewal application and required fee(s).

(3) Meet continuing education requirements.

(a) A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse licensed by examination during the earning period shall, for the first license renewal, earn four contact hours of Board-provided continuing education related to Board functions, the Nurse Practice Act, regulations, professional conduct, and accountability and one contact hour for each calendar month remaining in the earning period up to a maximum of 24 contact hours including the mandatory class.

(b) A registered nurse and licensed practical nurse shall earn in each earning period not less than 24 contact hours of Board-approved or Board-

recognized continuing education as a condition for renewal of license for the subsequent license period.

(c) Failure to meet the continuing education requirement shall be cause for the license to lapse.

(4) An active license is required to practice nursing. The licensed nurse shall have the active license renewal card available for employer inspection by January 1 of the new license period.

(5) Failure to receive the renewal application or notice shall not relieve the licensed nurse of the responsibility of renewing the license by the expiration date.

(6) Any license not renewed as of December 31 of the renewal period shall lapse. Any individual who practices with a lapsed license shall be subject to penalties established under 610-X-8.

(7) Advanced practice nurses shall renew approval to practice at the time of RN renewal. Failure to meet the requirements of Chapter 610-X-5 or Chapter 610-X-9, as applicable, shall result in lapse of the advanced practice approval. The advanced practice license card shall expire prior to the RN license card if the licensee's national certification expires during the license period.

(a) Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP) and Certified Nurse Midwives® (CNM®) with prescriptive authority shall earn, as part of the required twenty-four (24) Board-approved or Board-recognized continuing education contact hours for license renewal, six contact hours of pharmacology content specific to prescriptive practice in the approved area for collaborative practice. Graduate pharmacology academic credit earned during the nurse practitioner or nurse midwife educational program prior to initial approval as a CRNP or CNM do not qualify as pharmacology continuing education for renewal of approval as a CRNP or CNM.

(b) Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) shall earn, as part of the required twenty-four (24) Board-approved or Board-recognized continuing education contact hours for license renewal, six contact hours of pharmacology. Graduate pharmacology academic credit earned during the nurse anesthetist educational program prior to initial approval as a CRNA does not qualify as pharmacology continuing education for renewal of approval as a CRNA.

(c) If six months or less remains in the license period at the time of initial approval, continuing education contact hours specific to pharmacology are not required for the first advanced practice renewal.

(d) If the applicant for advanced practice approval is granted approval during the renewal period for registered nurses, the approval will expire at the end of the next license period or the specialty certification period, whichever comes first.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-23 and Act 89-243.

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended March 22, 1991. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007. **Amended:** Filed May 16, 2008. Effective June 20, 2008. **Amended:** Filed June 19, 2009. Effective July 24, 2009.

**610-X-4-.09 Special Renewal Provisions for Actively Deployed
Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses.**

(1) If a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse's license lapses while serving in the military whenever the United States is engaged in active military operations against any foreign power, the license may be reinstated or renewed without penalty or payment of the reinstatement or late renewal fee(s) under the following conditions:

- (a) The license was active at the time of deployment.
 - (b) The application for reinstatement or renewal is made while still in the armed services or no later than six months after discharge from active service or return to inactive military status.
 - (c) A copy of the military activation orders or other proof of active military service accompanies the application.
 - (d) The renewal fee is paid.
 - (e) If the required continuing education contact hours were not earned for renewal during the earning period, the registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall be required to complete the required continuing education hours needed for renewal no later than six months after discharge from active service, return to inactive military status, or return to the United States from an active war zone. Failure to earn the required continuing education contact hours may be grounds for the license to lapse.
- (2) The continuing education contact hours used for renewal may not be used for the next license renewal.
- (3) The continuing education contact hours for the next license renewal may not be prorated.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-23(f)

History: Filed July 22, 2003. Effective August 26, 2003. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.

610-X-4-.10 Reinstatement of a Lapsed License. A lapsed license may be reinstated upon submission of a completed application and compliance with the following:

- (1) Payment of current renewal and reinstatement fees, outstanding fees and fines, if applicable.
- (2) Evidence of completion of twenty-four contact hours of approved continuing education within the twenty-four months preceding application.
 - (a) Contact hours earned for reinstatement of a lapsed license may not be used toward the continuing education requirement for the next license renewal.
 - (b) A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse whose license is reinstated shall accrue for license renewal one contact hour for each calendar month remaining in the license period.
 - (c) The contact hours earned for reinstatement of a lapsed license during a renewal period shall also apply to the immediate renewal
 - (d) If the reinstatement of a lapsed license occurs during the renewal period for that license type, the expiration of the license shall be the end of the next license period.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-2 and Act 89-243.

History: Effective March 22, 1991. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001.

Repealed and Replaced: Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.

Amended: Filed June 19, 2009. Effective July 24, 2009.

610-X-4-.11 Notice Requirements.

- (1) The applicant or licensee shall notify the Board in writing of any requested name change. Appropriate legal documents and fees shall be submitted prior to changing the name of the licensee on the license card. The legal documents required for a name change are one of the following:
 - (a) Marriage certificate.
 - (b) Divorce decree
 - (c) Probate court records effecting a legal name change.
- (2) The licensee shall notify the Board office in writing of any change in the licensee's address. The address of record is the address provided by the applicant or licensee.
- (3) The Board's notice to the licensee of selection for audit of continuing education records is presumed within five (5) days of mailing or electronic transmission to the address of record.
- (4) Advanced practice nurses, as defined by statute and regulation, shall submit to the Board, immediately upon receipt:

(a) Evidence of authorization to test for the initial certification examination if requesting provisional approval for advanced practice nursing.

(b) Evidence of current national certification by a Board-recognized national certifying body:

(i) Upon successful completion of the initial certification examination.

(ii) At the time of renewal of advanced practice approval.

(iii) Upon recertification by a Board-recognized national certifying body.

(c) Notice of termination of an approved collaborative practice, if applicable.

(5) Current national certification by a Board-recognized certifying body is a prerequisite for approval to practice as a certified registered nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, certified registered nurse anesthetist, and clinical nurse specialists. Failure to provide evidence of current national certification prior to the expiration of existing certification on file with the Board shall result in lapse of approval to practice as an advanced practice nurse and may result in disciplinary action pursuant to Chapter 610-X-8.

(6) The Board's notice to the advanced practice nurse of approval to practice may be:

(a) A letter granting provisional, temporary, or interim approval.

(b) An advanced practice license or wallet card that reflects the date of expiration of the registered nurse license card or the expiration of national certification, whichever comes first.

(7) Practicing as an advanced practice nurse subsequent to the expiration date on the advanced practice license card shall result in disciplinary action pursuant to Chapter 610-X-8. Failure to submit evidence to the Board of meeting the requirements of Chapter 610-X-5 or Chapter 610-X-9, as applicable, shall result in lapse of the advanced practice approval.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-2(l).

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended March 24, 1984. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. **Amended:** Filed March 24, 2006. Effective April 28, 2006. **Amended:** Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.

610-X-4.12 Lost License Card. The licensee shall promptly report, in writing, the loss of a license card to the Board. A duplicate license card requires a completed application and appropriate fee(s).

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-23.

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004.

610-X-4-.13 Verification of Alabama Licensure. Upon receipt of a written request and payment of the required fee, the Board's designee shall provide written verification of Alabama licensure.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-2(1).

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004.

610-X-4-.14 Fees.

- (1) Fees and fines are not refundable.
- (2) Fees are payable by certified check, cashier's check, corporate or business check, money order or personal check.
 - (a) Counter checks are not an acceptable method of payment. Personal checks shall be imprinted with the name, address, and account number of the applicant or licensee.
 - (b) Personal checks by third parties are not acceptable.
 - (c) Personal checks on out of state banks are not acceptable.
 - (d) License verification fee(s) are not payable by personal check.
 - (e) Applicants or licensees who submit personal checks that are returned due to insufficient funds may be prohibited from paying any future fees or fines by personal check.
 - (f) Statutory charges for returned checks shall be paid by the applicant or licensee.
- (3) Fines are payable by certified check, cashier's check, corporate or business check, or money order.
- (4) The Board may allow payment of fees and fines by electronic means.
- (5) Payment, regardless of the method, that is not honored by the financial institution may result in disciplinary action and/or reporting to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution.
- (6) A license may not be issued until funds are received by the Board.
- (7) The Board shall set fees and charges annually. At each September meeting of the Board, the previous schedule of fees and charges shall be automatically readopted unless the Board proposes a revised schedule.
- (8) The following schedule of fees and charges shall be the schedule of fees and charges as of January 1, 2009.

Licensure by examination or endorsement	\$85.00
Biennial renewal of license	75.00
Reinstatement fee, lapsed license	125.00
Reinstatement fee, revoked license	500.00
Reinstatement fee, suspended license	250.00
Reinstatement fee, advanced practice approval/certification	50.00
Reinstatement fee, lapsed continuing education provider	500.00

Late CE Audit Fee	1 st Time	150.00
	2 nd Time	300.00
	3 or more Times	600.00
Late Renewal		125.00
Temporary permits		50.00
Monitoring fee, voluntary disciplinary alternative program		up to 1,000.00
Continuing Education Provider Fee, initial and renewal prior to lapse		400.00
Certification/Verification of Alabama licensure		30.00
Duplicate license cards		25.00
Consultation visit		500.00 per day
Initial approval for advanced practice		150.00
Biennial renewal of approval for advanced practice		50.00
Processing of subpoena		10.00
Additional approval or change in collaborative practice		50.00
New Nursing Education Program, Initial Application		1500.00
Miscellaneous services		Up to 100.00
Purchase of Roster		50.00 set up fee plus .06 per name
Group online license verification subscription service		Up to \$2000 per year
Copies of Records		\$5.00 search fee plus 0.25 per page
Fee to Resend Mail		25.00
Inactive License Fee, initial and renewal		50.00
Reactivation of inactive license within two years of inactive status		500.00
Reactivation of inactive license after two years of inactive status		150.00
Statutory Bad Check Charge		Maximum amount allowed by law
Continuing Education Registration Fee		Up to \$100.00 per session

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-24.

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended April 27, 1984. Amended January 6, 1987. Amended April 1, 1991. Amended March 8, 1994. Amended November 26, 1997. Amended January 20, 1999. Amended January 19, 2000. Amended November 17, 2000. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. Amended November 14, 2002. Filed November 18, 2002. Effective December 24, 2002. Filed November 20, 2003. Effective December 25, 2003. **Repealed and Replaced:** Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004. Amended November 17, 2006. Effective January 1, 2007. **Amended:** Filed

November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007. **Amended:** Filed November 21, 2008. Effective December 29, 2008.

610-X-4-.15 Annual Report of Employing Agencies. The director of nursing or other appropriate authority shall submit an annual report that includes all persons employed as licensed nurses according to guidelines provided by the Board. Subscription to the Board's group online license verification service shall serve as the annual report of employing agencies.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: **Code of Alabama, 1975**, § 34-21-2(6).

History: Effective September 29, 1982. Amended October 24, 1985. Amended May 19, 1999. Filed May 29, 2001. Effective July 2, 2001. **Repealed and**

Replaced: Filed September 27, 2004. Effective November 1, 2004.

610-X-4-.16 Special Circumstances

(1) In the event the Governor proclaims a state of emergency impacting any part of Alabama, **Code of Alabama, 1975** Section 34-21-6 applies for the first thirty (30) days. An individual licensed to practice nursing in another state may provide emergency assistance in Alabama for up to thirty (30) days subject to verification of licensure in the state where licensed. Any organization or individual who provides employment or volunteer opportunities for the licensed nurse providing nursing services is responsible to assure the validity of the nursing license.

(2) Should an emergency continue past thirty days, a temporary permit to practice nursing in Alabama for 90 days is required. An application for an emergency temporary permit is required to be submitted to the Board either electronically or by mail.

(3) Any individual licensed to practice nursing in another state is required to have an Alabama license if educational or consultative services extend beyond 30 calendar days in one year.

(4) Telephonic or electronic services used to communicate with patients and provide direction regarding nursing and medical care require an active license to practice nursing in Alabama.

(5) Effective January 1, 2008, a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse who retires or ceases nursing practice for any reason and has no intention to practice in the future may apply to the Board for an inactive license with a "retired" status.

(a) The inactive license is valid for the same license period as an active license.

(b) A fee is required to renew an inactive license.

(c) Continuing education is not required to maintain an inactive license.

(d) In order to reactivate an inactive license, the applicant shall pay the required fees and submit 24 contact hours of continuing education earned within two years of the date of the application.

(5) In the event of a national emergency duly declared by Federal officials or in the event of a natural disaster or state of emergency duly proclaimed by the Governor, a certified registered nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife may provide emergency treatment without immediate physician collaboration to patients within the affected areas of the state, provided that the treatment is within the individual's scope of education, training and approved protocol. The certified registered nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife in such circumstance shall make reasonable efforts to inform the collaborating physician of the location and type of emergency services being provided and shall act in conformance with the direction of local physicians. The authority granted under this paragraph shall extend only for the duration of the declared national emergency or state emergency or natural disaster.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-21-6

History: Filed November 26, 2007. Effective December 31, 2007.